ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

Twenty-seventh Annual Session

OF THE

NEW RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

BANKSTON CHURCH,

October 9, 10, 11 and 12, 1897.

W. G. BAKER, Moderator.....Bankston, Ala.
J. E. COX, Clerk.....Fayette, "
T. E. GOODWIN, Treasurer..... " "
ZACH SAVAGE, Corresponding Secretary.....Hico, "

The next session of this Association will be held with Shepherd Church, commencing on Saturday before the 2nd Sunday in October, 1898.

FAYETTE, ALA.:
R. J. SMITH, PRINTER.
1898.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Devotional Exercises.
2. Read Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum.
3. Presentation of Letters from the Churches.
4. Election of Officers.
5. Call for Petitionary Letters.
6. Invite visiting Ministers not delegates, to seats.
7. Receive Correspondence, also return Correspondence.
8. On Missions.
9. On Sabbath Schools.
10. Hear Treasurer's Report.
11. Appoint Treasurer.
12. Appoint Special Committees :
    - (1) On Religious Exercises.
    - (2) On Documents.
    - (3) On Nominations.
    - (4) On Finance.
    - (5) Call for Report of District Meetings.
    - (6) On Temperance.
    - (7) On Religious Literature.
    - (8) On Orphans' Home.
    - (9) On Prayer and Prayer Meetings.
    - (10) On Ministerial Education.
    - (11) On Miscellaneous Business.
13. Read and correct Minutes, call Roll and Adjourn.

MINUTES.

BANKSTON, ALA., October 9, 1897.

The New River Baptist Association convened with Bankston Church on the 9th of October A. D. 1897, in its 17th session, and, in the absence of Eld J. W. Akin, the appointee, Rev. G. W. Gravlee, alternate, preached the opening sermon, from Rom. 1:14, 15. The discourse was appropriate and edifying, after which the Body adjourned to partake of a bountiful repast, prepared on the ground by the good people of Bankston and community.

At 1:30 p. m., the delegates re-assembled in the church-house, with the former Moderator, Rev. G. W. Gravlee, in the chair. An address of welcome was delivered by J. E. Cox, Pastor of Bankston Baptist Church. Respone by Elder G. W. Gravlee.

After devotional exercises, conducted by the Moderator, Elder W. G. Baker leading in prayer, the Association was called to order, and letters from the churches were placed on the table, and read by J. H. Newton and S. W. Clements.

LIST OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES.

The names and delegates were enrolled as follows:

Unity—A. N. Reeves, W. B. Shirley, J. H. Reeves.

Sipsey Valley—D. T. Savage, M. L. Wright.*

Pilgrim Rest—F. Wilson, G. W. Freeman, S. L. Raney,* and J. H. Davis.*

Mt. Lebanon—J. T. Willis, J. W. Graham,* and J. E. Kirkland.*

Pleasant Hill—J. W. Hosmer, I. R. Chambliss, and J. H. Newton.

Salem—S. W. Clements, Thos. Kelley,* E. Farley.

Fayetteville—J. P. Dickinson, W. M. Olive, and J. M. Davis.*

Shepherd—G. W. Gravlee, J. L. Patterson,* J. M. Shepherd.*

Shady Grove—W. M. Olive,* Alex Ray, I. R. Hall.*

Rocky Mount—R. B. Walters,* John T. Holliman, G. W. Belk.*

Concord—J. J. Patterson, W. D. Doughty,* T. J. Papazan.

Friendship—W. J. Akin,* W. J. Blankenship,* J. H. Akin, and J. L. Harbin.

ElBethel—W. F. Gilpin, W. T. Bobo,* W. F. Jones,* T. G. White.

Rehobeth—B. T. Selman, W. F. Nichols,* and W. T. Lambert.

Pleasant Grove—Jed Henderson,* J. M Matheny,* J. S. Stevens.*

Macedonia—J. E. Cox, J. A. South, and S. N. Lindsey.

Philadelphia—J. S. Townsend, J. T. Smith, and I B. Deavors.*

Bankston—W. G. Baker, M. L. Parks, and L. B. Harbin.

Mt. Pleasant—G. H. White, S. M. Kizire,* and J. R. Gladden.

The Moderator requested W. B. Earnest and J. M. Kimbrell from the North River Association, to act as tellers, and the delegates proceeded to select officers, which resulted in the choice of W. G. Baker Moderator, and the present incumbent Clerk, and Zach Savage Corresponding Secretary.

Elder Baker, after an appropriate short talk, declared the Body organized for work.

Petitionary letters from new churches were called for and one was presented, borne by J. V. Montgomery, J. M. Keenum and J. M. Gardner, from Liberty church, which, on motion, was received and the delegates welcomed by the Moderator.

COMMITTEES.

On Religious Exercises—Deacons of Bankston church and J. L Patterson from Shepherd church.

On Arrangement—W B. Shirley, G. H. White, J. T. Holliman, W. M. Olive, and J. T. Garrison.

On Education—J. P. Dickinson, J. E. Cox, J. J. Patterson, and W. F. Nichols.

On Literature—J. F. Willis. J. W. Hosmer, G. W. McGinnis, and D. T. Savage.

On Nominations—J. H. Newton, S. W. Clements, J. A. South, and M. L, Parks

On Documents—A. N. Reeves, P. M. Walker, J. S. Townsend, and J. R. Gladden.

On Finance—W. F. Gilpin, W. T. Lambert, and T. G. White.

On motion, a Committee on Sunday Schools was appointed, composed of J. W. Hosmer J. R. Gladden, and G. H. White.

On motion, a Committee on Orphan's Home was appointed, viz: G. W. Gravlee, J. E. Cox, and A. N. Reeves.

Visiting ministers were invited to come forward, and W. B. Earnest and J. M. Kimbrell were—both from the North River Association, also our own beloved Elder J. S. Shirley was welcomed by the Moderator.

On motion, adjourned until 8:30 a. m. on Monday. Prayer by W. B. Earnest.

Elder W. B. Earnest preached at 7 o'clock p. m., followed by Eld. J. M. Kimbrell.

SUNDAY PROCEEDINGS.

Elder G. W. Gravlee, at 10 o'clock a. m., conducted a prayer service, and at 11 a. m. Elder J. P. Dickinson, who was appointed to preach at this hour, preached an able, earnest sermon from Psalm 103:13, 14, to a large and attentive congregation. The Spirit of the Master was manifest; at the conclusion of which, a collection for Missions was taken up, amounting to $6.30; also a collection for the Widows' and Orphans' Home, at Evergreen, Ala., was taken up amounting to $4.35. Elder J. W. Hosmer preached at 4 p. m. and Elder J. F. Willis at night, thus filling the Lord's day with labor.

MONDAY PROCEEDINGS.

The Body gathered at 8:30 a. m. and the Moderator conducted the religious exercises, and announced the Association ready for business.

The Constitution. Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum were read by Elder J. S. Townsend.

Called for report of Committee on Arrangement which, on motion, was adopted:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENT.

Your Committee on Arrangements would submit the following report: 1, Devotional Exercises; 2, Read Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum; 3, Presentation of Letters from the Churches; 4, Election of Officers; 5, Call for Petitionary Letters;

6, Invite visiting Ministers, not delegates, to seats; 7, Receive and Return Correspondents; 8, Report of Committee on Missions; 9, Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools; 10, Report of Treasurer; 11, Appoint Treasurer; 12, Appoint Special Committees—1st, Religious Exercises; 2nd on Documents, 3rd on Nominations, 4th on Finance, 5th call for Report of District Meetings, 6th on Temperance, 7th on Religious Literature, 8th on Orphans' Home, 9th on Prayer and Prayer Meetings, 10th on Ministerial Education, 11th Miscellaneous Business, 12th Read and corrects, 13th Adjourn.

W B. SHIRLEY, Chairman.

Called for Correspondents from sister Associations:
Yellow Creek: Elder W. C. Wood. North River: Elders W. B. Earnest and J. M. Kimbrell. Sipsey: Elder J. B. Ferguson and brethren J. C. Williamson and W. F. Taylor, all of whom were gladly welcomed.

Returned Correspondence: To the North River, which meets with Carbon Hill church on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1898, Elders A. N. Reeves J. S. Townsend, J. L. Harbin and brother W. B. Shirley. Sipsey: embracing first Sunday in October, 1898, at Pleasant Grove church, Elders G. W. Gravlee, George W. Freeman, W. M. Olive, and J. J. Patterson. Harmony Grove, at New River church Friday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1897, J. E. Cox, J. T. Holliman, B. T Sellman, J. L. Harbin, J. F. Willis and M. B. McCollum. Yellow Creek, embracing the 4th Sunday in October, 1898, Elders A. N. Reeves, J. S. Shirley, W. G. Baker, J. F. Willis, W. F. Gilpin, W. M. Olive, and brethren J. M. Stewart and I. R. Chambliss. Tuscaloosa, which meets at Hull on the 20th of October, 1897, Elders G. W. Gravlee, J. J. Patterson, and J. W. Hosmer. To the State Convention, at East Lake, on the 12th of November, 1897, Elders J. E Cox, G. W. Gravlee, J. W. Hosmer, and brother M. B. McCollum. Southern Baptist Convention, which meets in May, 1898, Elder A. N. Reeves $5.75 cash was raised to defray brother Reeves' expenses to said Convention, and the following amounts pledged: Mt. Pleasant, $2.50; W. B. Shirley, $1; Macedonia, $2 00; Shepherd $1; Fayette, $2.50; Salem paid $2; Banks on paid $2, Philadelphia $1. J. S. Shirley paid $1, Mt. Lebanon $1. W. F. Taylor paid 25c., Zach Savage paid 50c., Pilgrim Rest, $1 50. Total cash and pledges, $19.25. Rev. J. P. Dickinson was elected the alternate of brother Reeves.

Chairman of the Mission Board, M. B. McCollum, read his Report on Mission, which was duly considered and on motion, adopted:

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

We your Board on Missions report as follows: We have done very little the past year for the Cause, for want of funds. Dear Brethren, we have neglected this important work of carrying the gospel to a lost and ruined world, not so much because our people are not willing to contribute money, but because mainly, we have no system by which to work. We recommend that your Board on Missions for the next year, be furnished by the Pastor of each church in this Association, by the first of January, the amount his church will contribute, to the employment of a Missionary to work in the bounds of the

Association during the next associational year, so that the Board may have some assurance of the co operation and help of the Association.

M. B. McCollum,
Chairman of Board on Missions.

Whereas, at the last session of this Body it was made the duty of this Board on Missions, to make settlement with brother Akins for services rendered as Missionary in the Associatiom, and having investigated the matter as best we could, we recommend that the Association pay brother Akins $46.20—balance due him for said work.

M. B. McCollum, Ch'n.

TREVSURER'S REPORT.

On hand from 1895, $9.30; Rec'd from Finance Committee for Minutes, $20.60; Associational Fund, $10.00; State Mission, $12.83; Home Mission, $7.43; Foreign Mission, $14.44; Collected at Association for Home Mission, $10.51; To pay expenses of Delegate to State Convention, $5.75 Total, $90 86, less a receipt from J. W. Akin for $5.00 –$85.86. Disbursed as follows: To J. E Cox, Clerk, $10.00; For printing Minutes, $20,60; For Home Mission, $20.94; For State Mission, $10.98; Foreign Mission. $14.44; Total for State Convention, $8.90; Total expended, $85.86: leaving nothing on hand. I now ask to be discharged. This October 8th, 1897.

W. B. Melton, Treasurer.

Brother T. E. Goodwin was appointed Treasurer by the Moderator.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Dear Brethren: We are sorry to say that the Sunday School interest is on the decline. We notice from the letters, read from the various churches, that the majority of them have no Sunday School. We consider it a serious fault if we neglect the instruction, in the Bible—of our children. We recommend the appointment of a Committee on Sabbath Schools, to work up an interest in this direction, by calling our people together in Convention, for the consideration of this great question. Let the Pastors, parents and people take hold of the great work, and the children will become interested.

Submitted, J. W. Hosmer, Chairman.

Many good speeches were made on the report, which was adopted. On motion, adjourned for dinner, with prayer by J. F. Willis.

Reassembled at 1:30 p. m., the delegates were led in prayer by J. J. Patterson, and the Body called to order by the Moderator.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

The Committee on Documents made the following report, which was adopted:

Having examined the Documents placed in our hands, we find nothing claiming the attention of this Body.

A. N. Reeves, Chairman.

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

Your Committer on Nominations make the following report: Eld. J. F. Willis to preach the opening sermon at the next session of this Body, J. W. Hosmer, alternate; Elder G. W. Gravlee to preach the

Missionary at 11 o'clock a. m, on Sunday, Elder F. Wilson alternate. Retain the old Board, viz: M. B. McCollum, chairman, S. W. Clements, J. H. Newton, J. F. Holliman and J. R. Agerton; on Ministerial Education, A. N. Reeves, chairman, J. M. Stewart and Zach Savage. We recommend that the above Board be entrusted with all the Missionary work in the bounds of the New River Association, and to co-operate with the State Board in such work as will best advance the Missionary cause in our bounds.

J. H. NEWTON, Chairman.

Several speeches were made on the Missionary question, and the report was adopted.

REPORT OF FINANCE.

Your Committee on Finance report as follows:

For Minutes	$20.25
For Associational purposes	8.90
For Home Missions	5.50
For State Missions	12.45
For Foreign Missions	6.90
State S. S. Missions	1.05
Orphans' Home	3.35
Total	$58.49

Submitted, W. F. GILPIN, Chairman.

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

The first District will meet with Mount Pleasant church on Friday before 1st Sabbath in September, 1898. Opening sermon by Elder J. W. Hosmer, G. H. White alternate.

1st Query: What is the Gospel and who is responsible for its promulgation? Opened by J. S. Townsend. 2. Should our Churches or Ministers engage in union meetings with other denominations? Opened by Dr. L. T. Hocut. 3. How do the graces of God first discover themselves in the heart of man? Opened by J. R. Gladden. 4. What did the Savior mean in Matt. 6:7? Opened by B. T. Selman. 5. What is the Bible doctrine on Sanctification? Opened by G. H. White. Sermon at 11 o'clock a. m. on Sunday by J. E. Cox.

J. J. PATTERSON, Moderator.

J. R. GLADDEN, Clerk.

The Second District held its session with Pilgrim Rest church, and located the next session of the Association at Shepherd church, 11 miles south of Fayette Court House. The 2nd District will meet with ElBethel church, 8 miles north of Fayette Court House, on Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in September, 1898. 1st Query: Friday p. m., What is meant in Romans 11:25? Opened by S. L. Raney. 2nd Query: Saturday a. m., Does the Bible teach that regeneration precedes Repentance and Faith? If so, why did Jesus exhort the people to repent and believe the Gospel? Opened by G. W. Freeman. 3rd Query: Was the atonement made by Christ, full satisfaction for the Ademic race? Opened by J. L. Harbin, This September 11, 1897. J. S. SHIRLEY, Moderator.

ZACH SAVAGE, Clerk.

ELDER D. W. ANDREWS—RESOLUTION.

The following resolution was adopted:

Be it resolved, That this Association confer with the North River

Association, at its next annual session, and by co-operation endeavor to raise money enough to erect a neat tomb to mark the last resting place of our deceased brother, Elder D. W. Andrews; and that the Moderator of this Association appoint a committee of three to confer with a committee composed as many members as the North River Association may see proper to appoint, to raise money for said purpose, and that they furnish the wording of the epitaph to be engraved on the tombstone that shall mark the last resting place of of the father or founder of the North River Association.

Respectfully, G. W. FREEMAN.

Committee to solicit help: J. E. Cox, J. S. Shirley, J. J. Patterson

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The New River Baptist Association to the sister Associations with whom she corresponds—Greeting:

Dear Brethren—We are now in session, and thus far harmony has prevailed Your Correspondents as shown by our Minutes, have been welcomed among us. We return Correspondents, as shown by Minutes. The next session of this Body will be held with Shepherd Church, 11 miles south of Fayette, commencing on Saturday before the 2nd Sunday in October, 1898, when and where we hope to meet your Correspondents and have their aid in the work of our Body.

ZACH SAVAGE, Cor. Sec'y.

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Your Committee on Ministerial Education would report that, there have been no applications made to your Board for help on this important line of work, and therefore nothing has been done.

Respectfully submitted, A. N. REEVES.

REPORT ON ORPHANS' HOME.

Your Committee on Orphans' Home would say, we have a Home located at Evergreen, Ala., for the purpose of caring for the orphans and widows of the Baptists of Alabama; and we recommend that institution to the favorable consideration of this Body. Brethren, let us make this Home a blessing to our beloved State, by helping to support it with our means. Collection taken up on Sabbath amounted to $3.35. Respectfully submitted, G. W. GRAVLEE, Ch'n.

REPORT ON LITERATURE.

Your Committee on Literature would recommend as reading matter the study of the Holy Scriptures, and as literature, The Alabama Baptist, The Texas Baptist Standard, and Foreign Mission Journal, published at Richmond, Va. We also recommend to our Sabbath Schools the literature published by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention at Nashville, Tenn.

J. F. WILLIS, Chairman.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee on Temperance submit the following: Owing to the limited time we have to investigate this very important question, we cannot present it as its importance demands. We think this

Body ought to appoint a standing committee on this subject. Further, we think all Christians should give more attention to the instruction of our Lord, when He commanded us to be temperate in all things. Therefore we should continue, yes, and increase our efforts to banish the demon, dram-drinking from all our homes, State, and nation. That the legalized saloons of our county site are a great evil, such as we should endeavor to remove by a legal course. Further, since the Christians are the light of the world, we should use every laudable means to free ourselves from the responsibility of allowing anything that is so detrimental to the public good to be carried on under our observation, but should speak and act in a way to suppress it at all times and in all places.

Respectfully submitted G. W. GRAVLEE, Ch'n.

WHITSITTISM.

Whereas, there is, at this time, throughout this broad land of ours, among the Baptist Brotherhood, confusion over the publications and avowals of Dr. W. H. Whitsitt, President of our Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees have thus far refused to investigate the matter, still retaining Dr. Whitsitt as President, therefore

Be it resolved, That so long as Dr. Whitsitt is retained as President of our Seminary, we withhold our patronage and influence from said Institution.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

The following committees were appointed:

On Literature—W. W. Gravlee, P. P. Mayfield, Eld. W. G. Baker.

On Missions—M. B. McCollum, chairman, J. H. Newton, J. F. Holliman, W. A. Graham, W. B. Melton, S. W. Clements and Eld. G. W. Gravlee.

On Sabbath Schools—J. H. Newton, J. R. Gladden, W. F. Nichols, W. M. Olive, W. S. Bobo and G. W. Freeman.

On Prayer and Prayer Meetings—J. W. Graham, J. L. Harbin, S. L. Raney and G. W. McGinnis.

On Temperance—Elders J. W. Hosmer, M. W. Olive and J. P. Dickinson.

RESOLUTIONS—DEACON NUCKOLS AND W. F. BAKER.

Whereas, it has pleased our God to call from the church at Fayette Court House, our beloved brother, Deacon A. M. Nuckols since our last session, therefore

Be it resolved, That in the death of brother Nuckols, his widow suffers irreparable loss, his children lose an affectionate father, Fayetteville church a safe, wise counsellor, and one of her brightest lights, and Fayette county one of its best and most respected citizens. Resolved further, That the Sabbath School has lost one of its best workers and wisest instructors, but our loss is his eternal gain.

J. W. HOSMER, Chairman.

Whereas, Almighty God has removed from us, by death, brother W. F. Baker, since our last session,

Be it resolved, That in the death of brother Baker, his widow has

lost a loving husband, his only son an affectionate father, Fayetteville church an humble, faithful member and devout Christian, the Sabbath School a faithful worker, and Fayette county and the community a good citizen; and while we mourn his death, we believe our loss is his eternal gain. Our brethren are not dead but sleeping. J. W. HOSNER, Chairman.

On motion, adjourned until 8:30 o'clock Tuesday morning, with prayer by Elder J. P. Dickinson. Elders J. B. Ferguson, from Sipsey and W. C. Woods from Yellow Creek Association, preached at night.

TUESDAY, 8:30 A. M.

The delegates reassembled, and the religious exercises were conducted by the Moderator, Elder J. S. Shirley leading in prayer, after which the Body proceeded with business.

A resolution offered on Monday to recind an act passed by this Body some years ago, giving advice to churches, not to receive members from the anti-Missionary Baptist church on their baptism, was on motion, withdrawn.

CALLING PASTORS.

Whereas, a hinderance to the work and success of many churches is witnessed, growing out of the custom of calling our Pastors during our protracted meetings, therefore

Be it resolved, That we advise the churches to adopt some other time for these annual elections, and we suggest December would be the best and most suitable time. G. W. GRAVLEE.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Your Committee on Education submit the following report:

Education should interest all our people. Literary attainments tend to the up-lifting of humanity—all confess. Therefore, in view of this age of progress on this line, we urge (especially our brethren) to exert all their energy in this direction. We realize it to be a duty we owe to the rising generation, and specially our children, that we use all means possible to prepare them for a higher sphere of usefulness, than ourselves, in literary attainments. God has given us these precious pledges, and holds us responsible for the development of their intellectual powers, and we feel, that if through our efforts, the rising generation is brought to a higher plane of life, the world will be better for our having lived, and God will be honored, for, without Education there can be no civilization. We recommend Howard College, at East Lake, for our young men, and the Judson, at Marion, for young ladies. J. P. DICKINSON, Ch'n.

INSTITUTE WORK.

Resolved, That this Association endorses the Institute Work, conducted by Rev. G. S. Anderson, D. D., under the auspecies of the State Mission Board, and that our Ministers be advised to attend the one to be held at Guin, by brother Anderson, embracing the second

in July, 1898. Brother Anderson is the State Evangelist, and appointed to this special Institute Work for the benefit of Ministers who cannot attend our Seminary. We bespeak for him a hearty co-operation of the Brotherhood. W. F. GILPIN.

On motion, the churches were advised to examine the old Articles of Faith, found in Pendleton's Church Manual, and report at the next session of this Body whether they endorse, and can adopt the same.

Resolved, That the Clerk be ordered to secure the printing of as many copies of the Minutes of this session of the Body as the Minute fund will pay for, and distribute them between the churches according to their contribution, and that he receive all the Associational fund for his services.

THANKS.

Resolved, That we tender our heartfelt thanks to Banksron Church and the community for their unsurpassed hospitality shown us during the present session.

On motion, the Minutes were read, corrected and approved, a hymn sung, the parting hand given, and prayer offered by Elder A. N. Reeves. Thus closed a sweet, harmonious session of the New River Association, to meet with Shepherd Church on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1898

W. G. BAKER Moderator.

J. E. COX. Clerk.

P. S.—The amount of money due Elder J. W. Akins for services rendered as Missionary was paid.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who, on producing letters, shall take their seats.

ART 2. This Association shall be known by the name of the New River Baptist Association, which shall have the privilege to enact and carry out missionary purposes in all their bearings; yet so that churches and individual members are left free, and that giving or withholding shall not be a bar to fellowship.

ART 3. To give churches the best advice she can in all matters of difficulty, and if the union be broken between any of the sister churches to inquire into the cause of the breach and use her best endeavors to remove the difficulty; but if the breach cannot be repaired, to withdraw from any church or churches which she may look upon as being unsound in principle or immoral in practice until the same can be reclaimed.

ART. 4 The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association a written communication, specifying the names of their delegates, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and deceased since the last session of the Association, the state of their Sabbath

Schools and prayer meetings, and the number of ordained ministers and licensed preachers, with their postoffices which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

ART. 5. Every church in our union shall be entitled to representation in the following manner: Each church shall be entitled to send three delegates and no more. Any church failing to represent herself as above prescribed, shall state her reasons at the next session.

ART. 6. The Association thus formed, a majority of the members present shall choose by ballot a Moderator and Clerk, who shall serve one year

ART. 7. Churches may be admitted into this union who petition by letter and delegates, and upon nomination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the Association, which shall be manifested by the *M*oderator giving the right hand of fellowship

ART. 8. Every query sent up to the Association by any church in the union, shall be read and put to a vote by the Moderator whether it shall be debated, and if their be a majority for it, it shall be taken up and investigated, but if not it shall be withdrawn; provided, always, that those be first considered which effect the union of the churches.

ART. 9. Voting shall be confined exclusively to the body in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

ART. 10. The Association shall not adjourn any session until she shall have finished all the business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

ART. 11. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the session rises.

ART. 12. The Association shall, in all cases, be governed by a majority of the members present.

ART. 13. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any session of the Association when a majority of its members present shall deem it necessary.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe there is one only living and true God, and three persons in the God-head, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rules of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of human depravity; that it disables man from keeping the law for life, and that man's recovery and final salvation depends entirely upon the provision which Christ has made, and offered upon the condition of faith.

4. We believe in the doctrine of election through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the merits of Jesus Christ.

6 We believe the saints shall persevere in grace, and not one of them shall finally fall away.

7. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and general judgment, and that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

As for Gospel Order,

1. We believe that the visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers who have gained Christian fellowship with each other, and have given themselves up to the Lord, and one to another, and have agreed to keep up a godly discipline according to the rules of the gospel.

2. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the Church, and only law giver, and that the government is with the body, and is the privilege of each individual; and that the discipline of the church is intended for the reclaiming of the Christian who may be disorderly either in principle or practice, and must be faithfully kept up for God's glory and unity of the churches.

3. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects, and conscientiously do believe the true mode of baptism is immersion.

4. We believe that none have the right to administer the ordinances but ministers of the Gospel regularly ordained to that office.

6. We believe that none but those regularly baptized have a right to participate in the Lord's Supper.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. To expedite business, committees may be appointed at the direction of the Association.

3, The Moderator shall be deemed judge of order, and shall have the right to call to order at any time, and any brother not satisfied with his decision on any point of order, may appeal to the Association, on the same day, but at no other time.

4. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except withdrawn by him who made it.

5. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided or withdrawn before another shall be offered.

6 Every person who shall speak in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection.

7. The Moderator, when addressed for leave to speak, shall signify the right of the applicant by naming him or otherwise.

8. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject, without leave of the Association.

9. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

10. Any person wishing to retire shall obtain permission from the Moderator.

11. The Moderator shall give the casting vote, and shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time.

12. The appellation of Brother shall be used in our address one to another.

13. The names of delegates shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

14. Any member violating the above rules may be reproved as the Association thinks proper, only on the day the offense shall have occurred.

Churches.	Pastors.	Post Office.	Sabbath Meet'g	No. Baptized.	Rec'd by L.	Restored	Excluded	Lettered	Died	Total	Minute Fund	Associa'l Fund	State Missions.	Home Mission.	Foreign Miss'n.
Bankston,	J. L. McCollum	Carbon Hill,	4	4	1		1	10	3	35	1 25	50			
Concord,	I. N. Collins,	Ridge,		12	2		2	13	10	105	1 25	25			
ElBethel,	A. N. Reeves,	Ballard,	4	12	9		2	4	1	72	1 50	50	1 00		3 00
Fayetteville,	A. N. Reeves,	Ballard,	1	1	2			6	4	70	1 00	50			
Friendship,	W J Blankenship	Ballard,	4	12	2		2	2	3	101	1 50	50	1 00		
Macedonia,	F. Wilson,	Hico,	4	4	2		4	13		33	1 00	50			
Mt. Pleasant,	W. J. Akins,	Davis Creek,	4	4	2		2	5	1	56	1 00	25	4 45		
Mt Lebanon,	J. F. Willis,	Fayette		4											3 75
Liberty,	G. W Gardner	Bankston,	3	8	2	1		1	2	48	1 00	50		5 00	
Philadelphia,	W. G. Baker,	Bankston,	1	1	1			4	1	60	1 00	50	6 00		24
Pleasant Hill,	J. W. Hosmer,	Fayette,	4	4	1			4		36	1 00	50			
Pleasant Grove	W. J. Akins,							5	1	95	1 00	25			
Pilgrim's Rest,	F. Wilson,	Hico,	4	2	2		1	2	1	68	1 00	50			
Rocky Mount.	F. Wilson,	Hico,	1	2											
Rehobeth,	B. T. Selman,	New River,	2	3	10			2		22	75	25			
Shady Grove,	I. B. Davis,	Bankston,	1	1	2		1	1		55	1 00	50			
Sipsey Valley,	J. W. Hosmer,	Hico,							4	21	1 00	40			
Salem,	I. L. Collins,	Newlex'g't'n	1	3	3		2	4	1	00	1 00	50		5 00	
Shepherd,	G. W. Gravlee,	Newtonville,	3	7	2			4	1	57	1 50	50			
Unity,	A. N. Reeves,	Ballard,	3	2	8			2		89	1 50	50			
			20	25								8 90	12 45	5 50	6 99

P. S.—Ordained Ministers: G. W. Baker, Bankston, Ala.; G. W. Gravlee, Newtonville; F. Wilson, Hico; A. N. Reeves Ballard; J. P. Dickinson, J. S. Shirley and B. T Sellman, Hugent; G. W Gardner and J. S. Townsend, Bankston; G. H. White, Davis Creek; J. F. Willis, J. E. Cox and J. W. Hosmer, Fayette; W. J. Akins, Ballard

Concord Church sent $1.05 for State S. S. Missions. Clerks of some of the churches failed to give total membership and day of meetings.—CLERK.